In the claims:

Claims 1-15 cancelled.

16. (currently amended) A sleeve (11) for connecting an at least partially electrically conductive, elastically resilient sheath (21) of an alternating current winding (4), which is placed in a groove (2) of a long-stator (1), to a ground conductor (17), consisting of a shell-like, resilient element being made of an electrically conductive metal sheet and partly enclosing said winding (4) over more than a half of said winding in such a manner that said winding (4) is pressable into said sleeve (11) after said sleeve (11) has been placed in said groove (2), wherein said sleeve (11) has at least one inwardly protruding nominal contact-point (18) forming a contact-area (18a) which presses into said sheath (21) after said winding (4) has been placed into said sleeve (11) and a connecting element (16) for said ground conductor (17) positioned at at least one longitudinal end, wherein said nominal contact-point (18) consists of a bulge-shaped elevation in the form of a bead having a smooth or slightly arched contact-area (18a).

Claim 17 cancelled.

18. (previously presented) A sleeve according to claim 16, further having two longitudinal ends and two of said nominal contact-areas (18a)

at each of said ends, said nominal contact-areas (18a) being arranged at outer edges.

19. (currently amended) A device sleeve according to claim ~~17~~16, wherein said bead has a radial height and is configured such that said bead radially presses itself into said sheath (21) of said winding (4) in the mounted condition thereof.

20. (previously presented) The sleeve according to claim 16, wherein said connecting element (16), a connection lug (15) connecting said element (16) with said sleeve (11), and said nominal contact point (18) have a large-area configuration to reduce transition resistances from said sheath (21) of said winding (4) to said sleeve (11) and from said sleeve (11) to said ground conductor (17).

21. (previously presented) The sleeve according to claim 16, wherein said sleeve (11), said element (16) and said ground conductor (17) are made of stainless steel.

22. (previously presented) The sleeve according to claim 16, wherein said connecting element (16) is a spring channel configured for resilient accommodation of said ground conductor (17).

23. (previously presented) The sleeve according to claim 20, wherein said connecting element (16) is connected to said sleeve (11) in a one-part configuration by means of said connection lug (15).

24. (currently amended) A magnetic levitation railway, comprising a long-stator (1) as a part of a long-stator linear motor and having grooves (2) and an alternating current winding (4) inserted into said grooves, wherein said winding (4) has an at least partially electrically conductive sheath (21), said railway including a device for grounding the sheath (21), said device comprising a sleeve (11) for connecting the sheath (21) of the alternating current winding (4), which is placed in a groove (2) of the long-stator (1), to a ground conductor (17), consisting of a shell-like, resilient element being made of an electrically conductive metal sheet and partly enclosing said winding (4) over more than a half of said winding in such a manner that said winding (4) is pressable into said sleeve (11) after said sleeve (11) has been placed in said groove (2), wherein said sleeve (11) has at least one inwardly protruding nominal contact-point (18) forming a contact-area (18a) which presses into said sheath (21) after said winding (4) has been placed into said sleeve (11) and a connecting element (16) for said ground conductor (17) positioned at at least one longitudinal end, wherein said nominal contact-point (18) consists of a bulge-shaped elevation in the form of a bead having a smooth or slightly arched contact-area (18a).